## REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the previous amendments and following remarks.

Claims 1-8 are pending. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended. No new matter has been added.

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,969,314 to *Rakus et al.*; rejects claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 4,910,485 to *Bolongeat-Mobleu et al.* in view of *Rakus*, and rejects claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 4,401,863 to *Lemmer et al.* in view of *Rakus*. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The *Rakus* patent does not disclose a switching device comprising a first connector wherein the first connector comprises a hole formed in a portion of the first connector located inside the frame and is configured to conduct load current in a conducting state of the switching device, the hole provided for gas flow produced by a switching event, as in Applicants' independent claim 1. Such a feature encompasses Applicants' exemplary embodiment as illustrated in Fig. 1 wherein first connector 4 includes a hole 12 located inside the frame 2.

Instead, the *Rakus* patent discloses a power circuit breaker 1 having a housing 3, a line side conductor 13 and a load conductor 15. An runner 65 is mounted on the line conductor 13 by a bolt 79 which extends through a support block 81. The integral arcing contact and runner 65 includes a slot 97. The integral arcing contact and runner 65 is a separate component from the line side conductor 13. The integral arcing contact and runner 65 is arranged exclusively for an electric arc produced by a switching event whereas the line side conductor 13 is arranged for

a load current of the switching apparatus. The integral arcing contact and runner 65 does not correspond to the first connector of claim 1 because no load current ever flows through the integral arcing contact and runner 65. The slot of the integral arcing contact and runner 65 is arranged for directing an electric arc towards an arc shoot 83 located in the upper portion of the housing 3. The load current flows from the line side conductor 13 to the load conductor 15 without passing through the integral arcing contact and runner 65, as shown in Fig. 2 of the *Rakus* patent. Thus, the *Rakus* patent does not disclose a hole formed in a portion of the first connector located inside the frame, the hole provided for gas flow as in Applicants' independent claim 1.

The Office Action recognizes that the *Lemmer* patent and the *Bolongeat-Mobleu* patent do not disclose a hole formed in a portion of the first connector located inside the frame, the hole provided for gas flow as in Applicants' independent claim 1. The Office Action asserts that the *Rakus* patent overcomes the deficiencies of the *Lemmer* and the *Bolongeat-Mobleu* patents. However, as discussed above, the *Rakus* patent does not disclose a hole formed in a portion of the first connector located inside the frame, the hole provided for gas flow as in Applicants' independent claim 1. Therefore, the combination of the *Lemmer* and *Rakus* patents or the *Bolongeat-Mobleu* and *Rakus* patents do not include all of the features of Applicants' independent claim 1.

The dependent claims are allowable for at least the reasons discussed above as well as for the individual features they recite.

Early and favorable action with respect to this application is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this Amendment or the application in general, she is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC

Date: July 3, 2008

By: _____
Michael Britton
Registration No. 47260

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, VA 22313-1404
703 836 6620